



# THE Two Gentlemen of Verona.

*Actus primus, Scena prima.*

*Valentine: Prothens, and Speed.*

*Valentine.*

**E**ase to perswade, my louing *Prothens*;  
Home-keeping youth, haue euer homely wits,  
Wer't not affection chaines thy tender dayes  
To the sweet glaunces of thy honour'd Loue,  
I rather would entreat thy company,  
To see the wonders of the world abroad,  
Then (liuing dully sluggardiz'd at home)  
Weare out thy youth with shapelesse idleness.  
But since thou lou'st; loue still, and thrive therein,  
Euen as I would, when I to loue begin.

*Pro.* Wilt thou be gone? Sweet *Valentine* adew,  
Thinke on thy *Prothens*, when thou (hap'ly) seest  
Some rare note-worthy obiekt in thy trauaile.  
With me partaker in thy happinesse,  
When thou do'st meet good hap; and in thy danger,  
(If euer danger doe enuiron thee)  
Commend thy grieuance to my holy prayers,  
For I will be thy beades-man, *Valentine*.

*Val.* And on a loue-booke pray for my successe?

*Pro.* Vpon some booke I loue, I'll pray for thee.

*Val.* That's on some shallow storie of deepe loue,  
How yong *Leander* crost the *Hellepont*.

*Pro.* That's a deepe storie, of a deeper loue,  
For he was more then ouer-shooes in loue.

*Val.* 'Tis true; for you are ouer-bootes in loue,  
And yet you neuer swom the *Hellepont*.

*Pro.* Ouere the Bootes? nay giue me not the Boots.

*Val.* No, I will not; for it boots thee not.

*Pro.* What?

*Val.* To be in loue; where scorne is bought with  
Coy looks, with hart-fore sighes: one fading moments  
With twenty watchfull, weary, tedious nights; (mirth,  
If hap'ly won, perhaps a haplesse gaine;  
If lost, why then a grieuous labour won;  
How euer: but a folly bought with wit,  
Or else a wit, by folly vanquished.

*Pro.* So, by your circumstance, you call me foole.

*Val.* So, by your circumstance, I feare you'll proue.

*Pro.* 'Tis Loue you cauilt at, I am not Loue.

*Val.* Loue is your master, for he masters you;  
And he that is so yoked by a foole,  
Me thinkes should not be chronicled for wise.

*Pro.* Yet Writers say; as in the sweetest Bud,  
The eating Canker dwells; so eating Loue  
Inhabits in the finest wits of all.

*Val.* And Writers say; as the most forward Bud

Is eaten by the Canker ere it blow,  
Euen so by Loue, the yong, and tender wit  
Is turn'd to folly, blasting in the Bud,  
Loosing his verdure, euen in the prime,  
And all the faire effects of future hopes.  
But wherefore waste I time to counsaile thee  
That art a votary to fond desire?

Once more adieu: my Father at the Road

Expects my comming, there to see me ship'd.

*Pro.* And thither will I bring thee *Valentine*.

*Val.* Sweet *Prothens*, no: Now let vs take our leaue:

To *Milaine* let me heare from thee by Letters

Of thy successe in loue; and what newes else

Betideth here in absence of thy Friend:

And I likewise will visite thee with mine.

*Pro.* All happinesse bechance to thee in *Milaine*.

*Val.* As much to you at home: and so farewell. *Exit.*

*Pro.* He after Honour hunts, I after Loue;

He leaues his friends, to dignifie them more;

I loue my selfe, my friends, and all for loue:

Thou *Julia*, thou hast metamorphis'd me:

Made me neglect my Studies, loose my time;

Waite with good counsaile; set the world at nought;

Made Wit with musing, weak; hart sick with thought.

*Sp.* Sir *Prothens*: 'saue you: saw you my Master?

*Pro.* But now he parted hence to embarque for *Milaine*.

*Sp.* Twenty to one then, he is ship'd already,

And I haue plaid the Sheepe in loosing him.

*Pro.* Indeede a Sheepe doth very often stray,

And if the Shepheard be awhile away.

*Sp.* You conclude that my Master is a Shepheard then,

and I Sheepe?

*Pro.* I doe.

*Sp.* Why then my hornes are his hornes, whether I

wake or sleepe.

*Pro.* A silly answer, and fitting well a Sheepe.

*Sp.* This proues me still a Sheepe.

*Pro.* True: and thy Master a Shepheard.

*Sp.* Nay, that I can deny by a circumstance.

*Pro.* It shall goe hard but ile proue it by another.

*Sp.* The Shepheard seekes the Sheepe, and not the

Sheepe the Shepheard; but I seeke my Master, and my

Master seekes not me: therefore I am no Sheepe.

*Pro.* The Sheepe for fodder follow the Shepheard,

the Shepheard for foode followes not the Sheepe: thou

for wages followest thy Master, thy Master for wages

followes not thee: therefore thou art a Sheepe.

*Sp.* Such another prooffe will make me cry baâ.

*Pro.* But do'st thou heare: gau'st thou my Letter

to *Julia*?

*Sp.* I

*Sp.* I Sir: I (a lost-Mutton) gaue your Letter to her  
(a lac'd-Mutton) and she (a lac'd-Mutton) gaue mee (a  
lost-Mutton) nothing for my labour.

*Pro.* Here's too small a Pasture for such store of  
Muttons.

*Sp.* If the ground be ouer-charg'd, you were best  
sticke her.

*Pro.* Nay, in that you are astray: 'twere best pound  
you.

*Sp.* Nay Sir, lesse then a pound shall serue me for car-  
rying your Letter.

*Pro.* You mistake; I meane the pound, a Pinfold.

*Sp.* From a pound to a pin? fold it ouer and ouer,

'Tis threefold too little for carrying a letter to your louer.

*Pro.* But what said she?

*Sp.* I.

*Pro.* Nod-I, why that's noddy.

*Sp.* You mistooke Sir: I say she did nod;

And you aske me if she did nod, and I say I.

*Pro.* And that set together is noddy.

*Sp.* Now you haue taken the paines to set it toge-  
ther, take it for your paines.

*Pro.* No, no, you shall haue it for bearing the letter.

*Sp.* Well, I perceiue I must be faine to beare with you.

*Pro.* Why Sir, how doe you beare with me?

*Sp.* Marry Sir, the letter very orderly,

Hauiug nothing but the word noddy for my paines.

*Pro.* Beshrew me, but you haue a quicke wit.

*Sp.* And yet it cannot ouer-take your slow purse.

*Pro.* Come, come, open the matter in briefe; what  
said she.

*Sp.* Open your purse, that the money, and the matter  
may be both at once deliuered.

*Pro.* Well Sir: here is for your paines: what said she?

*Sp.* Truly Sir, I thinke you'll hardly win her.

*Pro.* Why? could'st thou perceiue so much from her?

*Sp.* Sir, I could perceiue nothing at all from her;

No, not so much as a ducket for deliuering your letter:

And being so hard to me, that brought your minde;

I feare she'll proue as hard to you in telling your minde.

Giue her no token but stones, for she's as hard as Steele.

*Pro.* What said she, nothing?

*Sp.* No, not so much as take this for thy pains: (me;

To testifie your bounty, I thank you, you haue cester'd

In requital whereof, henceforth, carry your letters your  
selfe; And so Sir, I'll commend you to my Master.

*Pro.* Go, go, be gone, to saue your Ship from wrack,

Which cannot perish hauiug thee aboarde,

Being destin'd to a drier death on shore:

I must goe send some better Messenger,

I feare my *Julia* would not daine my lines,

Receiuing them from such a worthlesse post. *Exit.*

## Scena Secunda.

*Enter Julia and Lucetta.*

*Jul.* But say *Lucetta* (now we are alone)  
Would'st thou then counsaile me to fall in loue?

*Luc.* I Madam, so you stumble not vnheedfully.

*Jul.* Of all the faire resort of Gentlemen,

That euery day with par'le encounter me,

In thy opinion which is worthiest loue?

*Luc.* Please you repeat their names, ile shew my minde,  
According to my shallow simple skill.

*Jul.* What think'st thou of the faire sir *Eglamour*?

*Luc.* As of a Knight, well-spoken, neat, and fine;

But were I you, he neuer should be mine.

*Jul.* What think'st thou of the rich *Mercutio*?

*Luc.* Well of his wealth; but of himselfe, so, so.

*Jul.* What think'st thou of the gentle *Prothens*?

*Luc.* Lord, Lord: to see what folly raigties in vs.

*Jul.* How now? what meanes this passion at his name?

*Luc.* Pardon deare Madam, 'tis a passing shame,

That I (vnworthy body as I am)

Should censure thus on lonely Gentlemen.

*Jul.* Why not on *Prothens*, as of all the rest?

*Luc.* I hen thus: of many good, I thinke him best.

*Jul.* Your reason?

*Luc.* I haue no other but a woman's reason:

I thinke him so, because I thinke him so.

*Jul.* And would'st thou haue me cast my loue on him?

*Luc.* I: if you thought your loue not cast away.

*Jul.* Why he, of all the rest, hath neuer mou'd me.

*Luc.* Yet he, of all the rest, I thinke best loues ye.

*Jul.* His little speaking, shewes his loue but small.

*Luc.* Fire that's closest kept, burnes most of all.

*Jul.* They doe not loue, that doe not shew their loue.

*Luc.* Oh, they loue least, that let men know their loue.

*Jul.* I would I knew his minde.

*Luc.* Peruse this paper Madam.

*Jul.* To *Julia*: say, from whom?

*Luc.* That the Contents will shew.

*Jul.* Say, say: who gaue it thee?

*Luc.* Sir *Valentines* page: & sent I think from *Prothens*;

He would haue giuen it you, but I being in the way,

Did in your name receiue it: pardon the fault I pray.

*Jul.* Now (by my modesty) a goodly Broker:

Dare you presume to harbour wanton lines?

To whisper, and conspire against my youth?

Now trust me, 'tis an office of great worth,

And you an officer fit for the place:

There: take the paper: see it be return'd,

Or else returne no more into my sight.

*Luc.* To plead for loue, deserues more fee, then hate.

*Jul.* Will ye be gone?

*Luc.* That you may ruminate. *Exit.*

*Jul.* And yet I would I had ore-look'd the Letter;

It were a shame to call her backe againe,

And pray her to a fault, for which I chid her.

What foole is she, that knowes I am a Maid,

And would not force the letter to my view?

Since Maides, in modesty, say no, to that,

Which they would haue the profferer construe, I,

Fie, fie: how way-ward is this foolish loue;

That (like a testie Babe) will scratch the Nurse,

And presently, all humbled kisse the Rod?

How churlishly, I chid *Lucetta* hence,

When willingly, I would haue had her here?

How angerly I taught my brow to frowne,

When inward ioy enforc'd my heart to smile?

My pennance is, to call *Lucetta* backe

And aske remission, for my folly past.

What hoe: *Lucetta*.

*Luc.* What would your Ladiship?

*Jul.* Is't neere dinner time?

*Luc.* I would it were,

That you might kill your stomacke on your meat,

And